

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10607

FOLLOWING TEL CALCUTTA 1740 DTD 20 JUL 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 1740

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SWEL, MILI, IN
SUBJECT: EASTERN COMMAND FLOOD RELIEF OPERATIONS IN THE NORTHEAST

1. MIDDLE RANK STAFF OFFICER ASSIGNED TO NORTHEAST COMMAND MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO A CONGEN OFFICER AT SOCIAL FUNCTION JULY 19.
2. EASTERN COMMAND IS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN THE INCREASINGLY WORSENING FLOODS IN ASSAM, NAGALAND, MISORAM, AND ADJACENT AREAS. SOURCE STATES THAT THE INDIAN CIVIL ADMINISTRATION HAS VIRTUALLY ABANDONED FLOOD RELIEF TO MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS AND LEADERSHIP. MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN FEEDING CIVILIANS, PROVIDING THEM WITH SHELTER AND RESCUING AND TRANSFERRING THEM FROM FLOODED AREAS. MOST OF THE DAILY 0900 HOUR BRIEFING FOR GENERAL JACOB, G-O-C NORTHEAST COMMAND, IS NOW CONCERNED WITH FLOOD RELIEF OPERATIONS. REPORTS REGARDING THESE OPERATIONS ARE FORWARDED DIRECTLY THROUGH MILITARY COMMUNICATION FACILITIES TO THE PRIME MINISTER, BYPASSING THE NORMAL CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATIVE CHANNELS.

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3. THE FLOODING IS ALSO CAUSING LOGISTIC PROBLEMS FOR EASTERN

COMMAND FORCES IN THE NORTHEAST. SOURCE STATES THAT TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT HAVE HAD TO BE MOVED TO DRIER AREAS. A MONUMENTAL PROBLEM IS THE CONTINUING TRANSFER OF THE THREE MONTHS EMERGENCY FOOD RATIONS THAT UNITS KEEP ON HAND WHICH HAVE ALSO BEEN ENDANGERED BY THE FLOODS. A FUTURE PROBLEM, SOURCE WENT ON, WILL BE THE REPLACEMENT OF THESE FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES WHICH HAVE BEEN USED OR DAMAGED.

4. SOURCE SAID ALL IS QUIET ON THE BANGLADESH BORDER AND HE ADDED THAT THE SITUATION COULD NOT BE OTHERWISE IN VIEW OF THE WEATHER. HE SAID THAT EASTERN COMMAND FORCES ARE SO TIED UP WITH THE FLOOD THAT MOVING MEN AND EQUIPMENT INTO A COMBAT SITUATION UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE VIRTUALLY UNTHINKABLE. FURTHER HE SAID CONDITIONS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BORDER ARE AS BAD WEATHERWISE AS IN INDIA AND THAT IT WOULD BE LOGISTIC NIGHTMARE TO MOVE INTO BANGLADESH AT THIS TIME. SOURCE SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAD ANY INTENTION OF MOVING AGAINST BANGLADESH, BUT IS SUCH A MOVE WERE TO BE ORDERED HE THOUGHT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME THAT IT COULD TAKE PLACE WOULD BE OCTOBER, FOLLOWING END OF THE RAINS WHEN THE GROUND WOULD BE DRY ENOUGH TO ALLOW COMBAT OPERATIONS.

KORN

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